

Practitioner's Docket No.: 788\_119

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

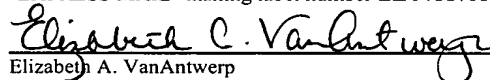
In re the application of: Sunao TANAKA and Masaki KUMAGAI

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

For: METHOD OF JOINING TOGETHER TWO PLANAR MEMBERS BY  
FRICTION STIR WELDING, AND TAB PLATE USED IN THE SAME  
METHOD

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 addressed to **Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450** on *October 27, 2003* under "EXPRESS MAIL" mailing label number **EL 975170158 US**.

  
Elizabeth A. VanAntwerp

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to examination, Applicants wish to amend the subject application as follows:

**Amendments to the Abstract** begin on page 2 of this paper and include an attached replacement sheet pursuant to 37 CFR 1.72.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 3 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including new Abstract is attached following page 3 of this paper.